

James Gaines Home
Pendleton's Ferry, Sabine County, Texas

HABS No. TEX-267

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Officer
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas.

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GAINES (NOW MCGOWAN HOUSE)
Pendleton Ferry, (Old Gaines Ferry) Sabine County, Texas

Owner James Polly McGowan.

Date of Erection 1820.

Architect None.

Builder Unknown, probably the original owner.

Present Condition Good

Number of Stories One story

Other Existing Records Unknown

Materials of Construction Log

Additional Data This was an important place in early history on account of location at ferry on King's Highway at Sabine River crossing. All early settlers in North East Texas passed through here. Camino Real led from here through Nacogdoches to San Antonio and from there to Monclova, Coahuila and thence to Mexico City.

This place is so excellent in scale that it might serve as a model to pattern all houses of this type. In the photograph the fence hugged the face of the porch so tightly that it was impossible to have the house without the fence. The posts are trimmed logs and nicely spaced. Generally, the house consists of a breeze-way through the center with a large room on each side and at the rear there is architecture's first off-spring, a lean too, whether the shingle roof dates from 1820 is open to question but the owner is to be congratulated that the shingles have been replaced and that he did not succumb to some ubiquitous seller of corrugated iron. The location of this place makes for romance. Everyone who came to Texas during the early days of her history, except those who were "on the dodge", crossed at Gaines' Ferry and stopped for food and shelter at this place. Sam Houston first entered his future Empire at this place. Aaron Burr may have visited here: so might Wilkinson. A few wheels of the forty wagons of gold might have reached this spot..... but this is hardly probable. The gold was buried in so many creeks between here and Nacogdoches.

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